

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

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E. O. 11652: NA
TAGS: EAIR, RP, US
SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-PHILIPPINE INFORMAL TALKS

1. SUMMARY. TWO DAYS OF FRANK INFORMAL TALKS PRODUCED SOLID POSITIONS AND STATEMENTS FROM PHILDEL WHICH USDEL PROMISED TO RESEARCH THOROUGHLY UPON RETURN TO US IN ORDER TO PROVIDE BASIS OF AN OFFICIAL NEGOTIATION IN WASHINGTON FOR A DATE IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN TWO DAYS OF FRANK DISCUSSIONS PHILDEL ENUNCIATED FOLLOWING POINTS IF ANY AGREEMENT IS TO BE ACHIEVED:

A. PREFER TO HAVE A MEMCON OR MEMUNDERSTANDING WITH A TENURE OF 5-6 YEARS RATHER THAN NEGOTIATE A WHOLE BILATERAL.

B. WILLING TO ALLOW MANILA TO BE HUB OF US CARRIER FULL TRAFFIC ACTIVITY TO OTHER ASIAN POINTS AS LONG AS THERE IS NO CHANGE OF GAUGE OR CHANGE IN FLIGHT NUMBER (THROUGH FLIGHTS). NEW POINTS INCLUDE, (BUT DO NOT EXCLUDE NECESSARILY THOSE NOT MENTIONED), THAILAND, TAIWAN, SINGAPORE, INDONESIA, MALAYSIA, HONG KONG, IN ADDITION TO POINTS ALREADY AUTHORIZED.

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C. ALL CARGO TRAFFIC SHOULD FOLLOW ESTABLISHED TRAFFIC ROUTING BUT EXCLUDES CHANGE OF GAUGE OR TOTAL OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY, I.E., NOT TOO HAPPY WITH A CARRIER CHANGING MANILA FROM INTERMEDIATE TO BEYOND OR TURNAROUND, OR ANY COMBINATION THEREOF, AT WILL.

D. LOW FARES WERE ENTHUSIASTICALLY ENDORSED.

E. CHARTERS WERE ACCEPTED IN PRINCIPLE BUT NO DETAILS WERE DISCUSSED OTHER THAN TO SAY "COUNTRY OF ORIGIN OF TRAFFIC RULES" DID NOT PRESENT SERIOUS PROBLEMS.

3. IN EXCHANGE, PHILDEL SAID IT WANTED FOLLOWING ROUTING:

A. GUAM AS AN INTERMEDIATE OR TURNAROUND.

B. LOS ANGELES -NOT AS A CO-TERMINAL BUT AS A TURN-AROUND.

C. TOKYO AS A FULL TRAFFIC INTERMEDIATE.

D. VANCOUVER AS A BEYOND, PROBABLY FROM HONOLULU, LESS POSSIBLY FROM SAN FRANCISCO, WITH FULL TRAFFIC RIGHTS.

E. SOME KIND OF ASSURANCE ON CAPACITY THAT THE US AIRLINES WOULD NOT OVERWHELM PAL IF A TYPE OF "OPEN SKIES" ARRANGEMENT WAS ACHIEVED.

4. PHILDEL, PARTICULARLY PAL ELEMENT, STRESSED THEIR REVERSAL OF PREVIOUS POSITIONS WAS DUE TO HOPE THAT A SUITABLE AND STABLE AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED; THEREFORE, THEIR MORE LIBERAL ATTITUDE.

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5. USDEL MADE NO COMMITMENTS, STRESSED INFORMATION AND FACT-FINDING AS WHOLE PURPOSE OF TRIP, AND AT NO TIME GAVE IMPRESSION OF ANY USG ULTIMATE POSITION. HOWEVER, USDEL FEELS REAL PROGRESS WAS MADE, EVEN TO THE POINT THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO REACH FINAL AGREEMENT DURING THESE SESSIONS, IF THERE HAD BEEN UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF THAT GOAL. NEVERTHELESS, USDEL ASSURED PHILDEL OF ITS EARNEST DESIRE TO DO WHAT WAS NECESSARY TO REACH A USG POSITION, THEN INVITE PHILDEL TO WASHINGTON FOR OFFICIAL TALKS, HOPEFULLY WITHIN THREE MONTHS.
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